

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 155772
ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:WWMILLAN:ZC
APPROVED BY ARA:JABUSHNELL
ARA/PAN:JCHAAHR
EB/IFD/OIA:DGRANT (DRAFT)
-----130415 201010Z /16
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS STATE 155772

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PN, BDIS, ECRE, EAIR

SUBJECT:CLAIM REGARDING CONSTRUCTION AT TOCUMEN AIRPORT

REFERENCE: STATE 112386

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL INQUIRIES IN RECENT DAYS ABOUT THE CLAIMS MADE BY THE LINBECK CONSTRUCTION COMPANY (REFTEL) AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA FOR COST OVERUNS ON WORK AT TOCUMEN AIRPORT. SENATOR BENTSEN OF TEXAS IS INTERESTED.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY RAISED THESE CLAIMS ONCE (IN AN INFORMAL, ROUTINE INQUIRY) WITH THE PANAMANIAN EMBASSY HERE, AND HAS COMMITTED ITSELF IN A RECENT REPLY TO SENATOR BENTSEN TO DOING SO AGAIN WHEN APPROPRIATE. MEANWHILE, WE BELIEVE OUR BEST CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE TOWARDS RESTORING COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE DISPUTING PARTIES. LINBECK'S COMPANY HEADQUARTERS IN HOUSTON (REFTEL) HAS PROVIDED DESK WITH THE NAME AND TELEPHONE OF THEIR OFFICER MANAGER
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IN PANAMA CITY: MR. WILL SAUERMILCH, TELEPHONE 649863.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT EMBASSY CONTACT MR. SAUERMILCH FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE PROGRESS OF THE LINBECK CLAIMS. IN THE EVENT THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES HAVE BROKEN DOWN, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO ENCOURAGE BOTH LINBECK AND GOP TO RENEW NEGOTIATIONS BY

ALL APPROPRIATE MEANS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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